



CHARLOTTE
BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 22, 2019
6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:08PM with six members present.

Members Present: Debra L Franklin Milton Irizarry Jr. Bob Carter
Liza Pratt Caitlin Tobin Elizabeth Swanzy-Parker

Members Absent: Gerry Kingsley Adam Raskoskie

Staff Present: Will Washam Keith Sorensen

Agenda Item #1 Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:08PM by Vice Chair Swanzy-Parker.

Agenda Item #2 Introduction of members and guests

Also present were Jeff Viscount, Terry Lansdel of Walk/Bike NC, Martin Zimmerman, Dick Winters, Kate Cavazza with Mecklenburg County Health, Eric Zaverl of Sustain Charlotte, and Felica Nichols.

Agenda Item #3 Call to the public

Eric Zaverl reminded the group of the upcoming Biketoberfest rain date of October 27.

Terry Lansdel announced the upcoming state Bike/Walk Summit.

Agenda Item #4 Review of the minutes

Bob Carter made a motion to approve the minutes as recorded from the September meeting. Caitlin Tobin seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5 Monthly reports

- Chair's report: N/A
- Staff report: Will Washam announced the 6th Street Cycle Track project public meeting at Imaginon, a drop-in format between 5:00 to 7:30PM on October 23. The City Manager's office will have an FY2020 budget engagement table at the event. Mr. Washam talked about the tunnel under Charlottetown Ave. on Bike Route 9 being closed. He is talking to the Project Manager to find out when it will be open again because it is an important bike route into uptown. Mr. Washam is hoping to regain connectivity, but there is major construction work underway. The short term alternate route is to follow old Bike Route 9 over to Elizabeth Ave. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if there is an ordinance to require notification when bike routes are closed for construction. Ms. Franklin wanted to know if the tunnel will reopen after the project is complete. Ms. Tobin asked if the detour signage will be temporary. She stated it would be best if the

signage is clear that the tunnel is closed due to construction so it does not appear to be an option. Ms. Pratt agreed. Mr. Carter wanted to know why exactly it is closed.

Will Washam said Adam Raskoskie has submitted recommendations for the vacant seats but the Clerk's Office is waiting until the new Council is seated to submit because the current Council is so near the end of their term.

- City Council report: NA
- Board of County Commissioners report: NA
- Other legislative reports: NA

Agenda Item #6 Standing subcommittee reports

- Engineering & Evaluation: Ms. Tobin said the subcommittee met last week and she passed around the draft letter of recommendation to Council to support adopting the Charlotte Streets Map. She would like to get the larger BAC's feedback and support so that Adam Raskoskie can present to Council. Adam Raskoskie did go and speak in support of adopting the Streets Map at the October 14 City Council meeting during the public hearing portion of the meeting. Martin Zimmerman mentioned that scooters are not mentioned as one of the user modes. Caitlin Tobin replied this was not intentional, but an oversight and the term micro-mobility was added. Milton Irizarry motioned to approve the letter, Liza Pratt seconded and it was approved by all. Ms. Tobin passed around a draft letter to endorse making parking in a bike lane an offense that can be fined. She researched what other cities do and found that enforcement can be difficult when it comes to collecting the fees. But she said the BAC can make the argument that it is important because it is a public safety issue. Ms. Swanzy-Parker said she will add this to the November agenda for discussion. Ms. Franklin commented that she would like to know what is the education component that can be added based on peer-city research. Mr. Washam said he thinks Council will be impressed by the amount of research the BAC has put into this recommendation. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if this could be rolled into the UDO? Mr. Washam thinks this could help inform our land development standards. Ms. Franklin asked if cars are still parking in the cycle track? Mr. Washam said this is still happening, but CDOT is going to install pavement markings to better show the loading zones. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked how Baltimore is able to have a \$300 parking fine in bike lanes, politically, and what alternatives are offered? Ms. Tobin replied that Charlotte has gone thru a large period of growth since these fine amounts were established but it is now time to bring up to better match what other cities of similar size are doing. Milton Irizarry said he thinks the fine amount should be more gradually increased and also work on education instead of just imposing a large fine. Ms. Tobin thinks that when Council sees what peer cities are doing it will make them more comfortable. Mr. Carter thinks it's more a matter of how much do you charge to pay for the cost of enforcement.
- Education & Encouragement: Bob Carter said they talked about trying to get back on track after not much activity the past four months. He would like an update on the Bicycle Program Budget and how the money will be allocated for 2020. Also, he would like to know how the BAC can be more proactive in working with CDOT with how more design concepts are brought forth earlier for review and comment. Mr. Washam said he will put the bike budget on the agenda for the next meeting. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked how we can follow up on Mr. Carter's other request? Mr. Washam talked about how there was a time when CDOT was not as progressive in considering comfortable bicycle facilities during street design and BAC input was regularly sought to advise on facility design. After the passage of Charlotte BIKES and a shift in department philosophy there is less need to bring every project to the BAC for design input, but he thinks it's an important conversation to have. Bob Carter brought up the idea of not allowing on-street parking

on Tryon St. uptown to make it safer for all road users in that part of the CBD. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if we can know better what topics are coming up to put on the BAC agenda in terms of upcoming projects. Mr. Carter recommended having a list each month of current projects that CDOT is working on to provide comments. Ms. Franklin asked for an update on the bus only lane pilot.

Agenda Item #7 New business

- Streets Map BAC recommendation: Caitlin Tobin said we have a letter of support and just emailed the final letter to Adam Raskoskie.
- Open Streets 704 update: Kate Cavazza shared a presentation, showed some photos from the fall event, went over the stats, said it was a record breaking turnout, and there were two placemaking projects with steering committees. Fifty kids came out for the street mural on S. Mint St., which was a partnership with the Church of the Galilee. Ms. Cavazza went over the survey results. April 19th is the date set for the next OS704 spring event. Jeff Viscount asked how do we count because it seemed less attended than past events. Kate Cavazza replied there were physical counters along the route. It was more than any other fall event but still less than the spring events which are always the biggest. Will Washam announced that Elenore Shell will be working with Bank of America for sponsorship. Ms. Tobin asked about the budget and does it break even? Jeff Viscount asked where the money comes from. Will Washam said the Bike and Pedestrian programs split some costs - each program budget pays for the traffic control for one event a year which is ~\$30k. He explained that the City covers basic costs and sponsorship covers the marketing and other costs. Ms. Tobin asked why is there fear of the program being discontinued if it has dedicated city funding. Will Washam said the City has not participated in full costs, but does participate. Ms. Tobin thinks it would be better to scale back than for it to go away. Mr. Carter said maybe we need to reconsider the funding split between the City and private sector. Kate Cavazza said it is still important to keep the message that this is an important event that needs and deserves funding. Mr. Carter thinks the Council should adopt a budget that makes Open Streets a permanent, ongoing event that is a part of the City's budget. Will Washam said City staff are reviewing the program and he will keep the BAC abreast of funding changes. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if the County is contributing money. Will Washam replied that their contribution is substantial in terms of the operations side. Jeff Viscount would like to see the event move around more to different neighborhoods. Mr. Washam will share the 8 to 80s Cities Report so the group will have a better understanding of the recommendations that came from this consultant.
- NCDOT Complete Streets Policy Continued: Will Washam said this will be continued because he is waiting on more info from an NCDOT representative. It will be added to the November agenda.

Agenda Item #8 Member topics and updates

Milton Irizarry said if we go down to zero paper we will save a lot. He suggested instead of printing the agenda and minutes to just pull it up on the overhead screen. Will Washam offered to add more members of the public to the notification list to receive the agenda and minutes before the meeting. Bob Carter shared that he was at a cycling event in Lexington, KY and talked about how well designed the bike path was with a centerline and artwork on the greenway, very nice. He would like to see that here in Charlotte. Ms. Franklin announced that the League of American Bicyclists will be having a class to teach LCI training on November 15 to 17, 5 to 9PM and Saturday all day and Sunday 8AM to 3PM. The location is Camden Stonecrest, Rea Rd and Pineville-Matthews Rd. Participants must preregister.

Will Washam talked about the bus only lane. He said it is on hold for now, but the floating bus stops have been installed on 4th St. between Tryon and Church. Mr. Washam talked about the ideal conditions for the College to Tryon St. section because we have more space to work with; he showed the schematics and renderings to illustrate what it will look like and how it will work. Milton Irizarry asked how the City is going to enforce the no-ride zone for scooters uptown. Will Washam talked about the importance of reallocating the space on the street for both bikes and scooters. Jeff Viscount does not like the floating bus stops, thinks they are a bad design, will be slippery when wet, and conflicts with pedestrians. Mr. Washam pointed out that riders are not supposed to wait on the platform at the Tryon/Church St. location because it is too narrow. The design is ADA compliant as buses can load a wheelchair at sidewalk height, at grade with the sidewalk. The next floating bus stop is planned for installation in January after waterproofing is done. The entire street will be repaved from curb to curb in the spring. Ms. Tobin thinks it's a great project and pointed out that NACTO has endorsed this treatment. But she wants to know why Council recalled the bus-only lane. Staff will provide an update on the bus lane pilot at the next meeting. Ms. Swanzy-Parker asked if there are videos of how this works in other cities.

Agenda Item #9

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM. The next meeting is scheduled for November 26.